



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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KANSAS CITY, KANSAS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT BANK ROBBERY AND BRANDISHING A FIREARM DURING A BANK ROBBERY

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Anthony DeWayne McNeil**, 23, Kansas City, Kansas, entered a guilty plea on September 7, 2004, before U.S. District Judge Carlos Murguia to one count of **conspiracy to commit bank robbery and one count of brandishing a firearm during a bank robbery**.

Melgren said that McNeil admitted at his plea that on May 12, 2004, he, along with another adult and a juvenile, drove to the Midwest Regional Credit Union, 4315 Kansas Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas. McNeil further admitted that he waited in the credit union parking lot for the tellers to open the bank and that he and the juvenile, while wearing wigs and coats, forced their way into the credit union and stole approximately \$87,750 in cash from the vault. McNeil further admitted that on June 17, 2004, he drove with another adult and a juvenile to Edgerton, Kansas, in a maroon Tahoe. McNeil admitted that he and the juvenile, wearing wigs and gloves, entered the First Kansas Bank & Trust at 405 East Nelson, Edgerton, Kansas, carrying handguns and robbed the bank of approximately \$3,232.00 in cash. McNeil also admitted that the maroon Tahoe was stopped a short time later by a Johnson County Sheriff's deputy who found currency, two hand guns and the wigs worn during the bank robbery in the vehicle.

McNeil faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy to commit bank robbery and a minimum of seven years for brandishing a firearm during a bank robbery. Sentencing is set for November 29, 2004.

Co-defendant **Carrie Lynn Slater**, 39, Burstow, California, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit bank robbery from March 1, 2004, through June 17, 2004; one count

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of robbing the First Kansas Bank and Trust Company, 405 East Nelson Road, Edgerton, Kansas, on June 17, 2004; and one count of brandishing a firearm during the bank robbery. If convicted, Slater faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for conspiracy; a maximum of twenty-five years for armed bank robbery; and a minimum of seven years for brandishing a firearm during a bank robbery. A jury trial is set for October 4, 2004.

Any charges against the juvenile would be filed by the Johnson County District Attorney's Office in Johnson County District Court.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Johnson County Sheriff's Department, the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask in this prosecution.